

# PATIENT ACCESS COALITION

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March 1, 2001

The Honorable  
John McCain  
241 Senate Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sen. McCain:

The undersigned members of the Patient Access Coalition commend you for your commitment to the enactment this year of a comprehensive and meaningful patients' bill of rights. The Coalition has worked tirelessly over the past seven years, on a bipartisan basis, to bring this issue to the forefront with the goal of making sure all Americans in managed care plans have the guarantee of basic federal patient protections.

Bipartisan cooperation will be crucial if we are to achieve enactment of a real patients' bill of rights. To that end, the Coalition wishes to express its support for the patient protections contained in the "Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001," (S.283, H.R.526), and supported by the Coalition – most important of which are timely access to specialists and the guarantee of a point-of-service option for all Americans. A copy of the Coalition's statement of principles is enclosed.

The Coalition hopes Congress will work closely with President Bush to bridge differences and reach agreement on this important legislation. Conversations with White House staff lead the Coalition to believe that President Bush is dedicated to achieving passage of a meaningful patients' bill of rights. While the president's principles for patient protections appear largely consistent with the principles of the Coalition, we look forward to actual legislative language that reflects President Bush's principles.

The Coalition is committed more than ever to securing enactment of a real patients' bill of rights early in the legislative session and looks forward to working with you, your congressional colleagues, and President Bush in this effort.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pain Medicine

American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Headache Society  
American Heart Association  
American Pain Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Clinical Pathologists  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society of General Surgeons  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
California Access to Specialty Care Coalition  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
National Hemophilia Foundation  
Pain Care Coalition  
Society for Excellence in Eyecare  
Society for Gynecologic Oncologists  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation  
The Endocrine Society  
The Paget Foundation For Paget's Disease of Bone and Related Disorders  
United Cerebral Palsy Associations